IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 14-16, 22-25, 27, 28 and 31, without prejudice.

1.–4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A fuel for a direct methanol fuel cell ~~as in claim 4 where~~ comprising:

methanol; and

an effective amount of an additive that undergoes a reaction with water to produce small molecules that are easily electro oxidized wherein the additive is about 20 mole percent dimethyloxymethane, and an ~~the~~ indicating dye that includes sulfonated activated carbon particles.

6.–8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A fuel for a direct methanol fuel cell ~~as in claim 8 where~~ comprising:

methanol;

an effective amount of an additive that undergoes a reaction with water to produce small molecules that are easily electro oxidized wherein the additive is methylorthoformate in such a proportion that the fuel comprises about 10 mole percent methylorthoformate; and

an ~~the~~ indicating dye that includes sulfonated activated carbon particles.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A fuel for a direct methanol fuel cell ~~as in claim 11 further comprising~~ comprising:

methanol;

an effective amount of an additive that undergoes a reaction with water to produce small molecules that are easily electro oxidized wherein the additive is tetramethylorthocarbonate in such a proportion that the fuel comprises about 10 mole percent tetramethylorthocarbonate; and

less than about .1% but greater then 0% by weight of an indicating dye.

13. (Original) A fuel for a direct methanol fuel cell as in claim 12 where the indicating dye includes sulfonated activated carbon particles.

14.-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A fuel for a direct methanol fuel cell ~~as in claim 16 where~~ comprising:

methanol;

an effective amount of an additive that undergoes a reaction with water to produce small molecules that are easily electro oxidized wherein the additive is trimethylborate in such a proportion that the fuel comprises about 7 mole percent trimethylborate; and

an ~~the~~ indicating dye that includes sulfonated activated carbon particles.

18. (Currently Amended) A fuel for a direct methanol fuel cell ~~as in claim 1 wherein~~ comprising:

methanol; and

an effective amount of an additive that undergoes a reaction with water to produce small molecules that are easily electro oxidized wherein the additive is tetramethylorthosilicate.

19. (Original) A fuel for a direct methanol fuel cell as in claim 18, wherein the fuel comprises about 5 mole percent tetramethylorthosilicate.

20. (Original) A fuel for a direct methanol fuel cell as in claim 19 further comprising less than about .1% by weight of an indicating dye.

21. (Original) A fuel for a direct methanol fuel cell as in claim 20 where the indicating dye includes sulfonated activated carbon particles.

22.–31.(Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method of preparing a fuel mixture for a direct methanol fuel cell ~~as in claim 30~~ 31 ~~further~~ comprising the steps of:

providing a supply of concentrated methanol;

adding an additive which is a fuel precursor in an effective amount such that said additive undergoes a reaction with water to produce small molecules that are easily electro oxidized selected from the group consisting of: dimethyloxymethane, methylorthoformate, tetramethyl orthocarbonate, trimethyl borate, and tetramethyl orthosilicate; and

adding at least one metal hydride selected from the group consisting of $LiAlH_4$, $NaBH_4$, $LiBH_4$, $(CH_3)_2$ $NHBH_3$, $NaAlH_4$, B_2H_6, $NaCNBH_3$, CaH_2, LiH, NaH, KH and sodium bis (2-methoxyethoxy) dihydridaluminate.